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value of wheat and animal products, but even here there is a suggestion such as was made by the agent of a large English estate a few years ago in conversation with the reviewer, to the effect that falling prices had so reduced the wealth of many farmers that they could not command the capital to operate large farms, and as a result the demand for small farms was heavy and the demand for large farms was light. An investigation might show this force to have been working in harmony with the principle to which Levy gives his entire attention.

But while some criticism seems due, Levy deserves great credit for working out in detail the way in which one economic force has operated during a century and a half of English history. This volume will doubtless hold an important place in the literature of agricultural economics for many years.

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Rural Denmark and its Lessons. By H. RIDER HAGGARD. (London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1911. Pp. 335. \$2.25.)

To the general public the author of the work before us is doubtless best known as a writer of fiction, but to students of agricultural economics he is most favorably known as a modern follower of Arthur Young. His works entitled *Rural England* and *A Farmer's Year*, besides various briefer articles and pamphlets, place him among the leading agricultural observers of the present day. The present work is the result of a tour of inspection of agricultural conditions in Denmark. No country would better repay such a tour of inspection. As the result of a disastrous war, itself a heavy drain upon the country, Denmark lost some of her richest provinces, and found her German market cut off by the German tariff wall; therefore in the late sixties she was facing national bankruptcy. But as a result of this accumulation of calamities, there developed a most intense national patriotism and a determination to rebuild the country through productive industry, particularly agriculture. This spirit of patriotism developed into a spirit of productive coöperation; and as the result of this spirit productive forces were reorganized and agriculture was revitalized, and in the short space of fifty years Denmark became the most prosperous country on the Continent. Such a

unique accomplishment as this makes any serious study of Denmark of the greatest possible interest.

The author traveled about the country not in Arthur Young's style, on horseback, but by modern means of transportation, accompanied by a secretary and interpreter. A great deal of the work is purely descriptive and therefore difficult to summarize in a review of this kind; but the author's descriptive powers, which have been well tested in his earlier work of fiction, enable him to write on a serious subject such as this with unusual vividness. Throughout the book he is continually contrasting what he sees in Denmark with what he has already seen in England, and with which, presumably, the English reader is more or less familiar. He leaves no doubt that in his opinion the comparison is very much to the disadvantage of England. Four chapters are of particular interest to the general student of rural economics, namely: "The Economic Position of Danish Agriculture"; "Coöperation in Denmark"; "Comments on Coöperation"; "Small-holding Ownership in Denmark."

The general result of his observation on the economic condition of Danish agriculture is that there is very little visible poverty or squalor or drunkenness—particularly no tramps. But he finds that the land is heavily mortgaged, on the average up to about half its selling value. To some this would seem like a bad sign, but the author does not agree to this. He thinks that it merely signifies the faith the people have in their land and their own ability to prosper. Since the mortgages are almost entirely held by co-operative banks, and since these banks lend for nothing except productive purposes, it is safe to infer that for every mortgage there is a corresponding increase in the productive power of the farms.

Coöperation in Denmark, it must be observed, is only a kind of quasi-coöperation. There is no really coöperative farming. There are no farms that are run coöperatively by the farmers themselves. The coöperation is wholly in the field occupied by the middlemen. That is, the farmers organize coöperative creameries, coöperative bacon-curing factories, coöperative banks, but they run their farms individually. The author compares the market opportunities of the Danish farmer under this régime with those of the English farmer, very much to the advantage of the former; for it seems from his comments that the English agricultural market is very

badly organized. It would be interesting to see whether the American agricultural market would suffer by comparison with the Danish—that is to say, whether the grower of a pig receives in this country a smaller percentage of the final value of the cured product than he does in Denmark; but no such figures are given in the work before us. He is emphatically of the opinion that one obstacle to coöperation in England is the lack of farm owners, for he thinks that only farm owners will coöperate. Tenants have not a sufficient permanency of interest, and moreover are afraid that if they should become more prosperous their rents would rise—an opinion which the single taxer will not be slow to take advantage of.

The author's observations regarding small-holding ownership in Denmark are not so flattering as might be expected. The very small holdings, financed by the state, seem to have been of dubious expediency. That is, it is doubtful whether the purchaser of a small holding (say $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres) is any better off than a farm laborer. It must obviously result in a rather inferior application of labor to the land.

Aside from the information afforded regarding the economic conditions of Denmark, this work is a valuable illustration, to the student of economic science, of an extremely important and very much neglected method of economic investigation.

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Landwirtschaftliche Studien in Nordamerika mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Pflanzenzüchtung. By K. VON RUMKER and E. VON TSCHERMAK. (Berlin: Paul Parey. 1910. Pp. xvi, 151; 71 illustrations. 5 m.)

This book is the report of a three-months' study of American educational institutions and experiment stations by the authors in 1909, under the auspices of the German and Austrian governments. The purpose of their visit was a thoroughgoing inquiry into the status of investigative plant breeding in America, especially in its experimental and practical aspects, and incidentally a survey of certain other agricultural problems of a more general nature. Their report deals with the technical and scientific, rather than the economic aspects of the agricultural industry.

The book consists of five chapters, and is based on first-hand